

304 EMILE ZOLA, NOVELIST AND BEFOEMER

are worth seeing. But the misfortune is that on account of this piece I have had to put my novel 'Le Eşve' on one side and have thus lost time."

"Le Eşve" appeared in volume form in the autumn of 1888,¹ and subsequently, in conjunction with M. Louis Gallet, Zola drew from his story a libretto for his friend M. Alfred Bruneau, the composer, from whom the much-discussed opera " Le Kşve " came three years later.² Mean-time Zola had written his novel, "La Be"te Humaine,"

which was suggested in part, undoubtedly, by "Jack the Eipper" and the theory of "homicidal mania," and in part by the mysterious death of a certain French prefect, named Barreme, who had been found assassinated in a railway carriage. "We know that Zola had contemplated a book on the railway world for several years, but had been at a loss how to utilize such a subject in fiction. The BarreTne affair extricated him from his difficulty, and was clearly indicated as one of Ms sources of inspiration in the " puff preliminary " which " La Yie Populaire " printed before beginning to publish the story in November, 1889 : " The principal episode of ' La BŞte Humaine,'" said this announcement, " is a murder in a railway train; and there are so many points of similarity between the terrible scene depicted

by Zola and
the mysterious death of Prefect Barre"me, that
one may well
inquire if the novelist, with an intuition
superior to that

¹ "Le Rive," Paris, Charpentier, 1893, 18mo, 310 pages.
Some copies
on Dutch, India, and Japanese papers. Eighty-eighth,
thousand in 1893 ; one
hundred and sixteenth thousand in 1903. Illustrated edition
: Mammarrion,
1888, 4to; illustrations by Carlos Schwob and Mdtivet; one
hundred and
fifty copies on Dutch paper. "Was sold in parts at 10
centimes. Jeannot
had illustrated the story in "La Revue Illustree," which
paid Zola one
thousand pounds for the serial rights.

^a First performed at the Opera Comique, June 18, 1891.